

REMARKS

The above amendments and following remarks are responsive to the points raised in the November 6, 2006 non-final Office Action. Prosecution on the merits has been closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213. Upon entry of the above amendment, previously withdrawn dependent Claims 2, 3, 7-13, 15, and 16 will have been amended and Claims 1-17 will be pending. No new matter has been introduced. Entry and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

The Examiner has indicated that the application is in condition for allowance with the exception of previously withdrawn dependent Claims 2, 3, and 7-16. Applicant has been "required to either cancel withdrawn claims 2-3, and 7-16 or amend these claims to eliminate inconsistent terminology with the preceding claims and properly depend on the preceding claims." Dependent Claims 2, 3, and 7-16 were previously withdrawn as being directed to a non-elected species.

In view of the above requirement, Applicants have amended previously withdrawn dependent claims 2, 3, 7-13, 15, and 16 to conform the language thereof to be consistent with their respective base claims and any intervening claim. No amendments were necessary to conform dependent Claim 14. On the basis of the above amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the outstanding formal issues raised by the Examiner have been satisfied. As such, previously withdrawn Claims 2, 3, and 7-16, which are dependent upon allowed base Claims 1 or 6, are in proper condition to be rejoined and allowed.

Accordingly, the Examiner's requirement is now moot and should be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has allowed Claims 1, 4-6, and 17. The Examiner has, in effect, indicated the allowability of previously withdrawn dependent Claims 2, 3, and 7-16 if amended to eliminate any inconsistency between such claims and their respective base claim and any intervening claim. Applicants have, per the Examiner's requirement, amended Claims 2, 3, 7-13, 15, and 16 to eliminate such inconsistency. As such, previously withdrawn dependent Claims 2, 3, and 7-16 are in condition to be rejoined and allowed.


CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-17 are in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for the timely consideration of this amendment, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1948-4815.

Respectfully submitted,
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